

JURY SELECTION OVERVIEW

Voir dire is conducted under the direction of the Court. The Court has the responsibility to ensure a fair trial and to remind the jurors of the fundamental principles that govern trials. Counsel may be interrupted without objection. Counsel will act with respect for jurors and their service. The parties must have an accurate estimate of trial length.

The following types of questions are generally improper:

1. Repetitive or embarrassing questions
2. Questions meant to establish a personal rapport with a juror
3. Questions that ask a jury to speculate on a verdict if certain facts are proved
4. Questions that 'push' the evidence as opposed to gleaning information from a juror
5. Questions that are irrelevant to a juror's qualifications
6. Questions that ask a juror to define legal terms

Logistically please note:

1. Counsel will advise jurors of potential witnesses.
2. Peremptory challenges are to be made only against jurors 'seated' in the jury box.
3. Alternate jurors are advised that they are alternates and are seated in chair(s) 13-15.
4. For cause challenges are to be made timely and in open court.

On the following pages is a list of general questions the Court will usually ask. They are subject to supplementation or change depending on the circumstances of the case.

If counsel intends to inquire into matters not usually pursued during voir dire, counsel must notify the Court ahead of time.

Your cooperation will ensure a thorough and prompt selection of the jury.

Thank you.

Honorable Timothy A. Bradshaw